Inquiry into Ahmedabad Test Match of 1999

†3937. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the captain found guilty in cricket match-fixing and banned from playing cricket for life, has demanded an inquiry into Ahmedabad test match, played in the year 1999; if so, whether Government would conduct an inquiry into it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are considering to enact any legislation to treat match-fixing in cricket as a serious offence and provide for punishment for the same; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) No such request has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government is reviewing the existing laws and exploring the possibility of bringing suitable amendments to deal with instances of match-fixing and betting in sports effectivly.

Lack of Sports Policy

†3938. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that youths of the country are losing interest in sports in the absence of a specific sports policy in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that new talents are not entering the sports due to improper development of sports, in the absence of a policy; and

(c) if not, what is Government's reaction thereto?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Due to enhanced participation of youth in sports, it is seen that during the last two to three years, India's performance in most of the International Championships/Games has been improving. Still there is scope for further improvement of India's performance in International Sports Events. In the 1998 Asian Games, India won 35 medals including 7 gold medals. In these Games Men's Hockey Team got gold medal after a long gap of 32 years. This performance is certainly better than India's performance in the 1994 Asian Games, when India could win only 23 medals. In 1998 Commonwealth Games, India got 25 medals including 7 gold, which was again better than 1994 Commonwealth Games, when India got 24 medals. In South Asian Federation Games (SAF), India's performance was spectacular as we won 197 medals including 102 gold. In 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, though the performance in terms of medal tally is the same as in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games, overall performance in different disciplines has improved. Laurels, brought by Shri Vishwanathan Anand by winning the World Championship in Chess and by Shri P. Gopi Chand by winning the All England Title in Badminton recently, are the results of the devotion of our sports persons.

BCCI's decision on non-regular cricket venues

3939. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Control for Cricket in India has taken a decision not to send its team for playing cricket at non-regular venues like Sharjah, Singapore and Toronto, for three years;